

The music piece file storing unit 108-1 is configured of, for example, the HDD 21 or an unshown external storing device such as a removable disk device or the like, and stores contents as files. Some of the contents recorded in the music piece file storing unit 108-1 have rights information, others do not have rights information. The music piece file storing unit 108-1 can store one or more files corresponding to a music piece. The music piece file storing unit 108-1 corresponds to, for example, one drive letter. There are cases wherein the drive letter corresponding to the music piece file storing unit 108-1 is changed.

The music piece file storing unit 108-2 is configured of, for example, the HDD 21 or an unshown external storing device such as a removable disk device or the like, and stores contents as files. Some of the contents recorded in the music piece file storing unit 108-2 have rights information, others do not have rights information. The music piece file storing unit 108-2 can store one or more files corresponding to a music piece. The music piece file storing unit 108-2 corresponds to, for example, one drive letter. There are cases wherein the drive letter corresponding to the music piece file storing unit 108-2 is changed.

There are cases wherein one or more files corresponding

to a music piece are recorded in the music piece file storing unit 108-1, and wherein more files corresponding to that music piece are recorded in the music piece file storing unit 108-2.

Fig. 4 is a diagram illustrating an example of rights information recorded in the memory card 9, corresponding to the contents recorded in the memory card 9. The rights information recorded in the memory card 9 are configured of, for example, the media contents ID, music piece title, equipment ID, equipment contents ID, the number of times of check-out, copy control flag, and music piece data pointer, etc.

The media contents ID is an identifier having a unique value for each music piece, in a manner uniquely corresponding to each music piece in the memory card 9. The music piece title is the title of the music piece.

The equipment ID is one of the following: the ID of the equipment which performed check-out of the contents, the ID of the equipment which moved the contents, or the ID of the equipment which stored the contents. For example, in the event that there has been check-out of the contents, the equipment ID indicates the ID of the equipment which performed the check-out of the contents. In the event that the contents have been moved and stored, the equipment ID indicates the ID of the equipment which moved the contents.

In the event that the contents are imported, the equipment ID indicates the ID of the equipment which stored the contents.

The equipment contents ID is an identifier having a unique value for each music piece within the equipment which performed check-out of the contents, the equipment which moved the contents, or the equipment which stored the contents.

The number of times of check-out indicates the number of times of check-out which can be made for the contents. In the event that the number of times of check-out is set at "-1", the number of times of that check-out can be made for the contents is unlimited.

The copy control flag indicates the operations permitted regarding the contents. For example, in the event that the copy control flag is "1", the equipment which performed check-out of the contents is permitted to check-in the contents. In the event that the copy control flag is "2", moving of the contents is permitted. In the event that the copy control flag is "3", importing of the contents is permitted. Copy control information of "0" indicates that it is invalid.

The music piece data pointer indicates the leading address where the contents are stored in the memory card 9.

In the example shown in Fig. 4, the contents wherein